

REMARKS

Claims 1-17 were considered by the Examiner. Claims 1-17 stand rejected by the Examiner.

In this response, claims 1, 4, 10, 13, and 16 have been amended. Claim 3 has been cancelled. Claims 18-20 have been added. Therefore, claims 1, 2, and 4-20 are pending.

Drawings

The drawings are objected to because they have elements shown in cross section which are not properly crosshatched.

Corrected Figures 3-4 now show the cross section of elements 22 and 28 cross-hatched as insulation material. Such cross-hatching is illustrative only, and is not related to patentability. The illustrated cross-hatching is not intended to limit the scope of the invention or the material of elements 22 and 28.

Rejections under 35 USC Sec. 112

Claims 4 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

With respect to claim 4, in response to the 35 U.S.C. 112 rejection, the language "the insulation material" has been clarified to refer to the strip shaped insulation material and the groove shaped insulation material introduced in claim 1.

With respect to claim 13, in response to the 35 U.S.C. 112 rejection, the language "the insulation material" has been clarified to refer to the first strip shaped insulation material, the

second strip shaped insulation material, the first groove shaped insulation material, and the second groove shaped insulation material introduced in claim 10.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. Sec. 102

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. Sec. 102(b)

Claims 1-3, 5, 10-12, and 14-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by DeFlorio (U.S. Pat. No. 5,949,026).

Claim 1 as amended reads as follows:

1. (amended) An electrical cable system comprising:
a first electrical cable comprising:
a strip shaped insulation material;
at least one electrical conductor disposed within the strip shaped insulation material;
a second electrical cable comprising:
a groove shaped insulation material for receiving the strip shaped insulation material;
at least one electrical conductor disposed within the groove shaped insulation material,
wherein the first electrical cable and second electrical cable may be releasably joined *using a press and fit seal* to form a co-joined cable by mating the strip shaped insulation material with the groove shaped insulation material.

Claim 1 as amended teaches an electrical cable system comprising a first electrical cable with a strip shaped insulation material and a second electrical cable with a groove shaped insulation material. The first electrical cable and the second electrical cable may be releasably joined using a press and fit seal to form a co-joined cable by mating the strip shaped insulation material with the groove shaped insulation material.

DeFlorio does not teach or suggest a first and second electrical cable which may be releasably joined using a press and fit seal. Rather, DeFlorio discloses insulated electrical conductors (11 and 12) attached to and along each half of a zipper (13 and 14). The DeFlorio zipper is a fastener consisting of two rows of teeth on strips and a sliding piece that closes an opening by drawing the teeth together (see DeFlorio Figure 1).

Thus, at least for the foregoing reasons, applicant respectfully submits that DeFlorio does not teach or suggest all the claimed elements of amended claim 1.

Claim 2

Claim 2 is dependent on claim 1. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claim 2 is patentable over DeFlorio at least for the reasons stated above with respect to the patentability of claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the withdraw of the rejection of claim 2.

Claim 3

Claim 3 has been cancelled.

Claim 5

Claim 5 is dependent on claim 1. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claim 5 is patentable over DeFlorio at least for the reasons stated above with respect to the patentability of claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the withdraw of the rejection of claim 5.

Claim 10 as amended reads as follows:

10. (amended) An electrical cable system comprising:
a first electrical cable comprising:
a first strip shaped insulation material;
at least one electrical conductor disposed within the strip shaped insulation material;
a first groove shaped insulation material; and
a second electrical cable comprising:

a second strip shaped insulation material for inserting into the first groove shaped insulation material;
a second groove shaped insulation material for receiving the first strip shaped insulation material; and
at least one electrical conductor disposed within the second strip shaped insulation material,
wherein the first electrical cable and second electrical cable may be releasably joined *using a press and fit seal* to form a co-joined cable by mating the first strip shaped insulation material with the second groove shaped insulation material and mating the second strip shaped insulation material with the first groove shaped insulation material.

Claim 10 as amended teaches an electrical cable system comprising a first electrical cable and a second electrical cable. The first electrical cable includes a strip shaped insulation material and a groove shaped insulation material. The second electrical cable includes a strip shaped insulation material and a groove shaped insulation material. The first electrical cable and the second electrical cable may be releasably joined using a press and fit seal to form a co-joined cable by mating the first strip shaped insulation material with the second groove shaped insulation material and mating the second strip shaped insulation material with the first groove shaped insulation material.

DeFlorio does not teach or suggest a first and second electrical cable which may be releasably joined using a press and fit seal. Rather, DeFlorio discloses insulated electrical conductors (11 and 12) attached to and along each half of a zipper (13 and 14).

Thus, at least for the foregoing reasons, applicant respectfully submits that DeFlorio does not teach or suggest all the claimed elements of amended claim 10.

Claims 11-12

Claim 11 is dependent on claim 10. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claim 11 is patentable over DeFlorio at least for the reasons stated above with respect to the patentability of claim 10. Claim 12 is dependent on claim 11. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claim 12 is patentable over DeFlorio at least for the reasons stated above with respect to the

patentability of claim 10. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the withdraw of the rejection of claims 11 and 12.

Claim 14

Claim 14 is dependent on claim 10. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claim 14 is patentable over DeFlorio at least for the reasons stated above with respect to the patentability of claim 10. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the rejection of claim 14.

Claim 15 reads as follows:

15. An electrical cable system comprising:
a first electrical cable comprising at least one electrical conductor disposed within a first insulation material;
a second electrical cable comprising at least one electrical conductor disposed within a second insulation material; and
a means for releasably joining the first electrical cable with the second electrical cable to form a co-joined cable.

Claim 15 teaches an electrical cable system with a first electrical cable and a second electrical cable. Claim 15 recites a means for releasably joining the first electrical cable with the second electrical cable.

Claim 15 recites a means-plus-function element under 35 U.S.C. 112, paragraph 6. This element must be interpreted to cover the corresponding structure and equivalents thereof. See 35 U.S.C. 112, sixth paragraph. Under In re Donaldson Co., 16 F.3d 1189 (Fed. Cir. 1994), the examiner should consider the structure disclosed in the specification corresponding to the means plus function language when rendering a patentability determination. A corresponding structure for the "means for releasably joining the first electrical cable with the second electrical cable"

element may be found in the specification, for example, at paragraph 23 (describing a press-and-fit seal).

DeFlorio does not teach the same or equivalent structure for performing the stated function of releasably joining the first electrical cable with the second electrical cable. Rather, DeFlorio teaches a zipper with two halves consisting of two rows of teeth on strips and a sliding piece that closes an opening by drawing the teeth together (see DeFlorio Figure 1).

Thus, at least for the foregoing reasons, applicant respectfully submits that DeFlorio does not teach or suggest all the claimed elements of claim 15. Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the rejection of claim 15.

Claim 16 as amended reads as follows:

16. (amended) A method for managing an electrical cable comprising:

- providing a first electrical cable comprising a strip shaped insulation material with at least one electrical conductor disposed within the strip shaped insulation material;
- providing a second electrical cable comprising a groove shaped insulation material for receiving the strip shaped insulation material with at least one electrical conductor disposed within the groove shaped insulation material; and
- mating the strip shaped insulation material with the groove shaped insulation material to releasably join the first electrical cable and second electrical cable *using a press and fit seal*.

Claim 16 as amended teaches a method for managing an electrical cable comprising a first electrical cable with a strip shaped insulation material and a second electrical cable with a groove shaped insulation material. The method includes mating the strip shaped insulation material with the groove shaped insulation material to join the first and second electrical cable using a press and fit seal.

DeFlorio does not teach or suggest mating a first and second electrical cable with a press and fit seal. Rather, DeFlorio discloses insulated electrical conductors (11 and 12) attached to

and along each half of a zipper (13 and 14), and bringing the two electrical leads together by zipping each half of the zipper together.

Thus, at least for the foregoing reasons, applicant respectfully submits that DeFlorio does not teach or suggest all the claimed elements of amended claim 16.

Claim 17

Claim 17 is dependent on claim 16. Therefore applicant respectfully submits that claim 17 is patentable at least for the reasons set forth above for claim 16. Accordingly, Applicant requests the withdrawal of the rejection of claim 17.

Claims 1, 4, 10, and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Basconi (U.S. Pat. No. 4,847,443).

Claim 1

Claim 1 as amended teaches an electrical cable system comprising a first electrical cable with a strip shaped insulation material and a second electrical cable with a groove shaped insulation material. The first electrical cable and the second electrical cable may be releasably joined using a press and fit seal to form a co-joined cable by mating the strip shaped insulation material with the groove shaped insulation material.

Basconi does not teach or suggest a first and second electrical cable which may be releasably joined using a press and fit seal. Rather, Basconi discloses a cable formed from a plurality of transmission line segments tacked together in interlocking relation. The transmission line segments do not utilize a press and fit seal and are not releasably joined.

Thus, at least for the foregoing reasons, applicant respectfully submits that Basconi does not teach or suggest all the claimed elements of amended claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1.

Claim 4

Claim 4 is dependent on claim 1. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claim 4 is patentable over Basconi at least for the reasons stated above with respect to the patentability of claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the rejection of claim 4.

Claim 10

Claim 10 as amended teaches an electrical cable system comprising a first electrical cable and a second electrical cable. The first electrical cable includes a strip shaped insulation material and a groove shaped insulation material. The second electrical cable includes a strip shaped insulation material and a groove shaped insulation material. The first electrical cable and the second electrical cable may be releasably joined using a press and fit seal to form a co-joined cable by mating the first strip shaped insulation material with the second groove shaped insulation material and mating the second strip shaped insulation material with the first groove shaped insulation material.

Basconi does not teach or suggest a first and second electrical cable which may be releasably joined using a press and fit seal. Rather, Basconi discloses a cable formed from a plurality of transmission line segments tacked together in interlocking relation. The transmission line segments do not utilize a press and fit seal and are not releasably joined.

Thus, at least for the foregoing reasons, applicant respectfully submits that Basconi does not teach or suggest all the claimed elements of amended claim 10. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the rejection of claim 10.

Claim 13

Claim 13 is dependent on claim 10. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claim 13 is patentable over Basconi at least for the reasons stated above with respect to the patentability of claim 10. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the rejection of claim 13.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C Sec. 103(a)

Claims 6-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over MacDonald, Jr. et al (U.S. Pat. No. 3,374,126) in view of DeFlorio (U.S. Pat. No. 5,949,026).

Claim 6 reads as follows:

6. A headset comprising:
a first speaker coupled to a first electrical cable; and
a second speaker coupled to a second electrical cable,
wherein the first electrical cable comprises an electrical conductor disposed within a first insulation material, and *wherein the first insulation material is shaped to form a first component of a releasable press and fit seal*, and wherein the second electrical cable comprises an electrical conductor disposed within a second insulation material, *wherein the second insulation material is shaped to form a second component of the releasable press and fit seal*.

Claim 6 teaches a headset comprising a first electrical cable and a second electrical cable.

The first electrical cable comprises a first insulation material shaped to form a first component of a releasable press and fit seal. The second electrical cable insulation material is shaped to form a second component of the releasable press and fit seal.

MacDonald in view of DeFlorio does not teach a first and second component of a press and fit seal using the conductor insulation material. Rather, DeFlorio teaches a first conductor in an electrical insulator and a second conductor in an electrical insulator. The first conductor electrical insulator and the second conductor electrical insulator do not form the components of a

press and fit seal. Rather, the first conductor electrical insulator is attached to one half of a zipper (13) having a row of teeth and the second conductor electrical insulator is attached to the other half of a zipper (14) having a row of teeth.

At least for the foregoing reasons, claim 6 is patentable over MacDonald in view of DeFlorio. Accordingly, applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the rejection of claim 6.

Claims 7-9:

Claims 7-8 are dependent on claim 6. Therefore applicant respectfully submits that claims 7-8 are patentable at least for the reasons set forth above for claim 6. Claim 9 is dependent on claim 8. Therefore applicant respectfully submits that claim 9 is patentable at least for the reasons set forth above for claim 6. Accordingly, Applicant requests the withdrawal of the rejection of claims 7-9.

New Claims

New Claim 18 reads as follows:

Claim 18 (new): An electrical cable system comprising:

- a first electrical cable comprising at least one electrical conductor disposed within a first insulation material;

- a second electrical cable comprising at least one electrical conductor disposed within a second insulation material, the second insulation material including a groove into which the first electrical cable may be inserted;

- wherein the first electrical cable and second electrical cable may be releasably joined with a ziplock style seal to form a co-joined cable by inserting the first electrical cable into the groove of the second insulation material.

Claim 18 teaches an electrical cable system comprising a first electrical cable and a second electrical cable. The first electrical cable and second electrical cable may be releasably

joined with a ziplock style seal to form a co-joined cable by inserting the first electrical cable into a groove of the second insulation material. Support for new claim 18 may be found, for example, at paragraph 23 of the specification.

DeFlorio, Basconi, and MacDonald, either alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest releasably joining a first electrical cable and a second electrical cable with a ziplock style seal by inserting the first electrical cable into a groove of the second insulation material.

Thus, at least for the foregoing reasons, applicant respectfully requests the allowance of claim 18.

Claims 19-20

Claims 19-20 are dependent on claim 18. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that claims 19-20 are patentable for the reasons stated above with respect to the patentability of claim 18.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks, allowance of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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